

missioner of Railways, and his appointment has been generally commended by the press as a good one, seeing that by training he was a military engineer. Such things speaks volumes for the future peace and well-being of the great community which is thus being cemented together with bonds stronger than iron or gold.

There is every appearance of an impending collapse in Mormondom. The Edmunds law, which was intended to suppress the practice of polygamy, is being enforced in Utah with so much stringency that those saints who have more wives than one find it convenient to keep out of the way of arrest. At first all sorts of obstacles were successfully raised to the prosecution, but ways of overcoming these have been found out, and polygamy must go. Men may continue to believe in it, but they will not be able to practice it, and that is all that society can undertake to accomplish by force of law. The mysterious feature of this singular community is the willingness of deluded women to become the victims of a system which reduces them to a state of mental and moral wretchedness. The final purification of society in Utah, as elsewhere, must result from the moral and intellectual elevation of women, and it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to accomplish this as speedily as possible.

ONLOOKER.

General News.

CANADIAN.

The Scott Act was carried in Chicoutimi County, Que., on the 9th inst., by a majority of about 600 votes.

Dr. Guay has been elected to represent Lévis, Que., in the Liberal interest in the House of Commons.

A verdict of "justifiable homicide" was returned on Saturday by the jury in the St. Thomas shooting tragedy.

The body of a full-grown infant was found in the closet attached to an empty house at Kingston. The police can discover no clue to its parentage.

The Toronto Temperance Electoral Union have decided to postpone the circulation of petitions for the submission of the Scott Act in Toronto till the 2nd of June.

The Manitoba Government has decided to issue debentures for \$1,000,000 to aid in the construction of the Hudson Bay Railroad. The work must be commenced within a year and completed in five.

Canadian Pacific Railway traffic receipts for last week showed an increase of \$53,000 over those of the corresponding week last year.

At Farmersville, a man named Marks assaulted Mrs. Mulvenna's husband, and when she interfered to save him Marks brutally assaulted her, breaking her collar-bone and otherwise seriously hurting her, and death ensued from her injuries. A charge of murder was laid against him.

Private M. Bair, of the Nova Scotia R. I. Rifles, while on sentry at the victualling yard, Campbell road, Halifax, on the morning of the 13th, suddenly leaned his head on the top of his rifle and pulled the trigger. The charge entered beside his ear, blowing all the side of his head off causing instant death. No cause can be assigned for the deed except that he had shown symptoms for some days of aberration of mind.

The latest despatches received from the Northwest state that Riel and his insurgent hordes are entrenched at Batoche's Crossing, about 56 miles from Humboldt, where Gen. Middleton has just arrived with his column. Middleton is still pushing on as fast as he can, and we may expect to hear at any moment of an encounter between our boys and the Half-breeds. Col. Otter, with his brigade of about 550 men, has left Swift Current en route to Battleford, and Gen. Strange with his column, is waiting at Calgary for orders to proceed to Edmonton. The Halifax Provisional Battalion, 350 strong, under command of Lieut. Col. Bremner, and "A" Troop Cavalry School Corps of Quebec, 48 men and 87 horses, Lieut. Col. Turnbull commanding, started last Saturday for the Northwest. The following is a list of the names of those who were treacherously murdered by the Indians at Frog Lake, west of Battleford:—Agent Quinn, Instructor J. Delaney, R. C. Priests Tafari and Lemarchand; Lay Bros. Wellcraft and Gouin; Wm. Gilchrist; Mr. and Mrs. Gowanlock, formerly of Toronto. Mrs. Delaney, wife of Instructor Delaney, remains a prisoner in the hands of the Indians. The Indians did not succeed in their treacherous work without some loss, having two of their number killed.

FIRES.—Four houses and stables in the suburbs of Montreal were burned to the ground on Monday morning. Eight horses perished in the flames. Mooney & Sons' extensive tannery in Montreal was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning, with all the machinery, involving a loss of \$80,000. Wm. Cane & Sons planing mill at Newmarket, together with the factory, foundry, and office was burned to the ground Tuesday morning. The Albion Hotel, at Brandon, was burned down at an early hour on the morning of the 11th. Two persons were burned to death. Miss Buchan, sister of the proprietor, and a boarder, Miss Beaupier, jumped from the second storey window and were badly scorched. The remainder of the boarders escaped with great difficulty in their night-clothes. A fire in Annapolis, N.S., caused damage of over \$15,000. It broke out in a storehouse belonging to the estate of A. W. Corbett & Son, and destroyed that property and an adjoining stable, a large building owned by Mr. Augustus Fullerton, collector of customs, badly damaged the Dominion hotel, and more or less injured several other stores and dwellings.

UNITED STATES.

Heavy snow-storms prevailed in portions of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin on Tuesday last.

During the past week one hundred and eighty-nine failures in the United States were reported.

White settlers in Northern Wyoming are in danger, as the Crow, Cheyenne and Piogian Indians are preparing to go on the war-path.

Col. S. C. Mower, editor of the Milwaukee *Sunday Telegram*, suicided Friday by shooting. Financial trouble is supposed to have been the cause.

Crop returns to the United States Department of Agriculture for the current month, indicate a reduction in the winter wheat acreage of 10 per cent., as compared with last year, indicating a reduction in yield of forty million bushels. The estimated loss by winter-killing is sixty million bushels.

A row of eight five-storey tenement houses in course of erection on 62nd street, New York, collapsed Monday afternoon without a moment's warning, burying in the ruins all the workmen employed, forty-five in number, the majority of whom were either crushed to death or fatally injured.

A horrible accident occurred at Oscoda, Mich., on the 13th. While George Fulton, Joe Biddle, Tom Mitchell, George Gordon, Frank Maynard and John Hardwick were clearing brick out of the smokestack of John Gram's mill, the bottom tier gave way and seven men were buried under 50,000 brick. Five men were killed outright. Hardwick, Biddle, Mitchell, Maynard and an unknown man. Fulton was severely but not fatally wounded, and Gordon, aged 17, marvelously escaped serious injury.

FIRES.—At Cleveland, Ohio, on April 13th, a fire broke out on the seventh floor of the Stillman House, a magnificent structure on Euclid avenue. Sixty servants on the upper floor barely escaped with their lives, losing their effects. The fire was subdued after having worked partially down to the fifth floor. Loss on building, \$50,000; nobody seriously hurt. At Pittsburg, Pa., the extensive furniture manufactory of M. Siebert & Co., was burned on the 10th. Loss, \$100,000. At New York, on April 14, a fire broke out in Huer's piano factory, 42nd street. After the flames were got under control, the second floor gave way, and fell to the cellar with a number of firemen, who were badly hurt. Two will die. Damage, \$15,000.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Sir Edward Sullivan, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, is dead.

The House of Commons, after rejecting by 391 to 148 Labouchere's amendment that the English immediately evacuate the Soudan, agreed to reply to the Queen's message calling out the reserves.

The Prince and Princess of Wales had a thoroughly enthusiastic reception in Dublin notwithstanding the hostile demonstrations of the extreme Nationalists. The Prince visited some of the worst slums in Dublin. He is now on a visit to the Earl of Listowel at Cavanmore, and from there will proceed to Killarney. At Mallow, the mob, incited by some Nationalist M. P.'s, attempted to reach the Royal carriage, but were driven back by the bayonets of the police. Some of the rioters were severely wounded.

It is stated M. de Freycinet desires to abandon the French operations in Madagascar and will make a commercial treaty with the Hovas, as a pretext for an honorable retirement of the French from Tamatave.

It is announced that China will adhere to the peace preliminaries signed on the 4th inst.

A terrible hurricane has occurred on the east coast of Madagascar. Twelve vessels foundered in the harbour, including five French and six native vessels, and the American barque *Sara Hobart*.

During the burning of the city of Colon, Central America, numbers of people were killed by the merciless shower of leaden hail which was poured into the doomed city, and hundreds of women and children perished in the flames. The streets the next day were literally strewn with dead and charred bodies. A despatch from La Libertad says a basis of peace was to-day accepted by San Salvador and Guatemala. Hostilities have ceased, and a general amnesty has been proclaimed. A definite treaty of peace will be arranged soon.

In the interior of the Soudan a rebellion has been started against the Mahdi which is considered more formidable than at first expected. The Mahdi sent several thousand troops to crush them in their stronghold at El Obcid, but was completely routed with great loss. Latest advices from Kassala state that the garrison has provisions for a month and plenty ammunition. The rebels attacked an Abyssinian caravan en route to Gella, and killed thirteen persons. Gen. Wolseley, on his way to Suakim, has arrived at Cairo. He says he has no idea of abandoning his intention to recapture Khartoum in the autumn. Osman Digma's men are out of provisions, and are compelled to eat camels.

War between England and Russia is almost inevitable. The action of Gen. Komaroff in attacking the Afghans without any reasonable provocation for such, has caused a sensation in England almost leading to a declaration of war. Negotiations have been going on for some time between the two governments without any satisfactory results, and the latest news state that the Czar has become emboldened enough to ask for the recall of Gen. Sir Peter Lumsden. The war feeling in Russia runs high, the leading military journals summing up with "Forward to Herat. Now is the time." Both countries are making stupendous preparations for war. In England, all the available troops are being got ready, and all the reserves are called out. Purchases of swift cruisers and the construction of torpedo boats have been increased. A large list of Atlantic liners has been chartered for the conveyance of troops. The Admiralty have decided to organize a great cruiser service of swift vessels. Part of the British squadron in Chinese waters has been ordered to rendezvous at a point on Hamilton island, which commands the entrance to the sea of Japan, and largely commands the way to Russian ports on the Pacific.